

17. **RESTREPIA RENZII** Luer, sp. nov.

ETIMOLOGIA: Nombrada en honor del Dr. Jany Renz de Basilea, Suiza, quien recolectó esta especie.

ETYMOLOGY: Named in honor of Dr. Jany Renz of Basel, Switzerland, who collected this species.

Inter species generis *Restrepiae* habitu grande, sed floribus parvis illis *R. lansbergii* Rchb.f. similis, et labelli epichilio minute fimbriato distinguitur.

Plant medium in size to large, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls erect, 6-10 cm long, enclosed by 5-8 thin, whitish, loose, compressed, more or less imbricating sheaths, the lowermost more or less dotted black. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, elliptical-ovate, subacute, 5-6.5 cm long, 2.8-3.5 cm wide, the base broadly cuneate or rounded, contracted into a twisted petiole 0.5 cm long. **Inflorescence** a solitary flower, produced successively in a fascicle behind the leaf; peduncle slender, 3-3.5 cm long; floral bract thin, tubular, 4.5 mm long; pedicel stout, 3 mm long, with a short filament; ovary purplish, lightly sulcate, 2 mm long; **sepals** membranous, the dorsal sepal free, erect, translucent white with the midvein purple, narrowly ovate below the middle, attenuated above the middle with the apex clavate-thickened, 1 mm thick at the apex, 16 mm long, 1.5 mm wide above the base, the lateral sepals connate to near the apex into a shallowly concave, more or less obovate lamina, light green with wine red dots, 15 mm long, 7.5 mm wide expanded, multiveined, the apex obtuse, shortly bifid; **petals** membranous, translucent white, narrowly linear-triangular, both margins with a capillary process above the base, attenuated above the middle with the apex clavate-thickened, 11 mm long, 1 mm wide at the base; **lip** cream-colored, flecked or dotted

with purple-brown, oblong, 7.5 mm long, 2 mm wide, the epichile 3-veined, minutely fringed, minutely papillose, the apex truncate, the hypochile subquadrate, concave with thin, erect margins, each side with a capillary, uncinata process, the disc with a pair of low carinae extending forward from the base of each process onto the epichile, the base subtruncate, connected to the column-foot by a broad, rigid, cylindrical neck; **column** white, slender, clavate, 3-4 mm long, the base pedestal-like with a pair of obtuse calli.

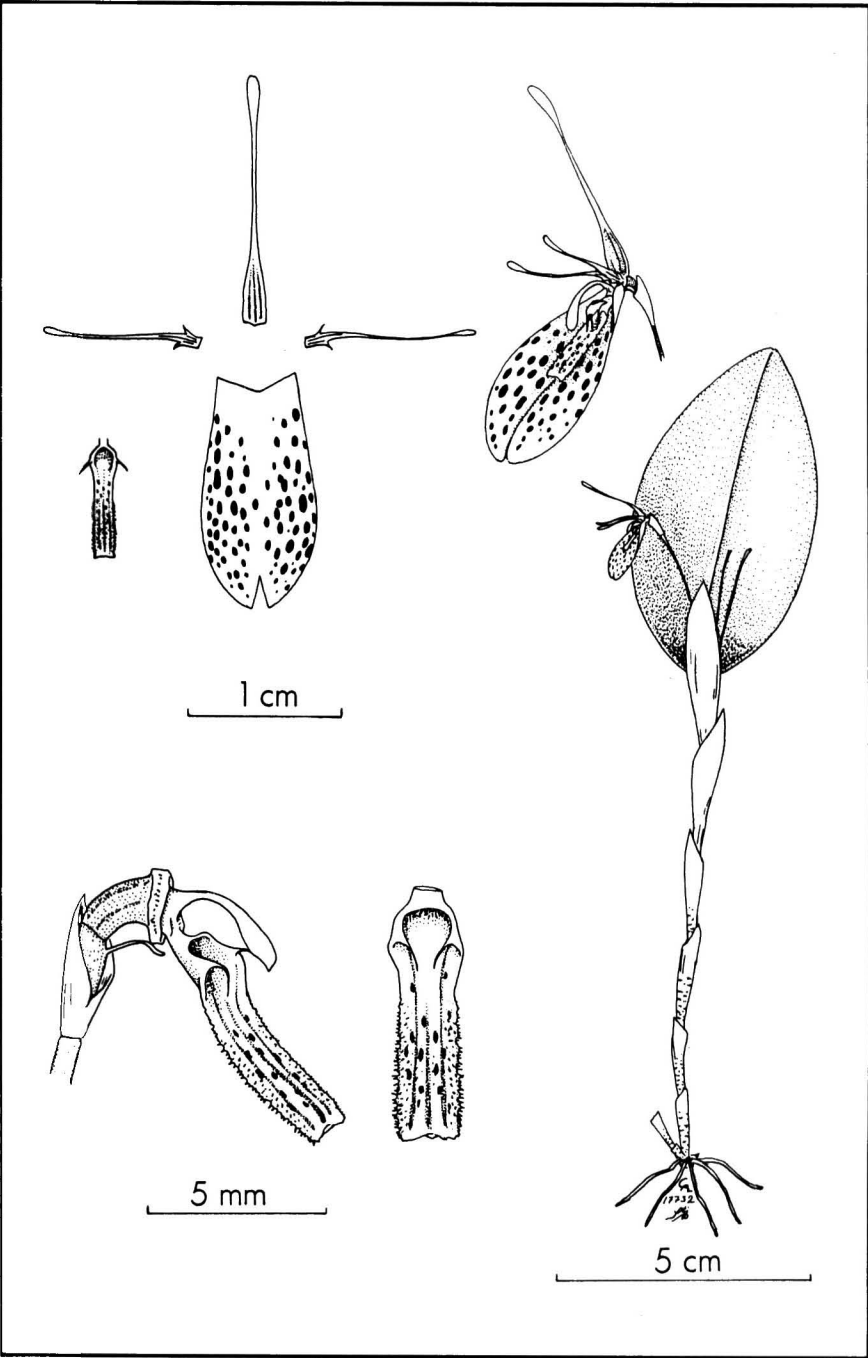
VENEZUELA: Edo. Mérida: Around Mérida, from El Valle toward Cordillera del Norte, alt. 2400 m, 19 July 1951, *J. Renz* 7277 (Holotype: Herb. J. Renz; Isotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 17732; around Mérida, between Las Cruces and upper González Valley, alt. 2500 m, 27 Mar. 1955. *J. Renz* 8386 (Herb. J. Renz).

Esta especie fue descubierta en 1951 por el Dr. Jany Renz en las montañas alrededor de Mérida en Venezuela occidental. Aunque las flores se ven muy parecidas a las de *R. elegans* de la costa de Venezuela, el hábito comparativamente grande con flores proporcionalmente pequeñas implantadas en un pedúnculo corto diferencian la especie.

Vegetativamente *R. renzii* es indistinguible de muchas especies de tamaño mediano a grande. Las hojas son comparativamente grandes y anchas. Los pedúnculos casi ni alcanzan la mitad de la longitud de la hoja. Las flores son proporcionalmente pequeñas con los sépalos de unos 15 mm de largo. El manchado sinsépalo es más o menos obovado o dilatado arriba de la mitad como se ve en *R. elegans*. *Restrepia renzii* se distingue además por unos procesos capilares en las márgenes de los pétalos arriba de la base, y por el oblongo epiquilo del labelo el cual presenta un flequillo diminuto en las márgenes.

This species was discovered in 1951 by Dr. Jany Renz in the mountains around Mérida in western Venezuela. Although the flowers seem very similar to those of *R. lansbergii* of coastal Venezuela, the comparatively large habit with proportionately small flowers borne by relatively short peduncles distinguish the species.

Vegetatively *R. renzii* is indistinguishable from many medium- to large-sized species. The leaves are comparatively large and broad. The peduncles do not quite reach the middle of the leaf in length. The flowers are proportionately small with the sepals about 15 mm long. The spotted synsepal is more or less obovate or dilated above the middle as seen in *R. lansbergii*. *Restrepia renzii* is further distinguished by capillary processes on the margins of the petals above the base, and the oblong epichile of the lip that is finely fringed.



Restrepia renzii Luer